

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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UNCLAS STATE 181485 TOSEC 080046

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: REUTERS' STORY ON SECRETARY'S TRIP

BEGIN QUOTE

THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT TODAY PROPOSED A SUMMIT OF
ARAB-ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE UNITED STATES TO
PAVE THE WAY FOR A RESUMPTION OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS
IN GENEVA, AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE
ANNOUNCED.

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HE DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL, WHICH ORIGINALLY CAME FROM
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT, AS "EXCELLENT" AND SAID
HE WOULD PRESS IT ON OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES HE WILL
VISIT IN COMING DAYS.

MR. VANCE SPOKE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH MR. SADAT AT
HIS SIDE, AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN LEADERS.
MR. VANCE SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD MEET AS A

WORKING GROUP TO PROMPT A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA
PEACE TALKS WHICH HAVE BEEN STALLED SINCE 1973.

BUT THERE WERE ALSO SIGNS OF DISHARMONY AS MR. VANCE AND
MR. SADAT ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON THE LAWN OF THE EGYPTIAN

LEADER'S SUMMER HOME ON EGYPT'S MEDITERRANEAN COAST.

MR. SADAT, WHO LOOKED GRAVE, SAID IN AN OPENING STATEMENT
THAT HE AND MR. VANCE HAD DIFFERED ON POINTS DURING THEIR
DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH HE REFUSED TO BE SPECIFIC.

MR. SADAT SAID: "AT THIS POINT, THERE IS NO USE AT ALL IN
STARTING ANY ARGUMENTS WHILE WE ARE STARTING ON THE MAIN
ISSUES."

A MAIN INTENTION OF MR. VANCE'S MISSION IS TO FIND OUT
HOW THE PALESTINIANS CAN BE REPRESENTED AT THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE FOLLOWING AN ISRAELI REJECTION OF ATTENDANCE
BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO).

BUT HE IS ALSO DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH MUST
BE SETTLED BEFORE A FINAL PEACE IS REACHED.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS ON A TEN DAY SWING THROUGH
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FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL.

THE EGYPTIAN LEADER FIRST PROPOSED A MEETING IN THE UNITED
STATES OF MIDDLE EAST FOREIGN MINISTERS WHEN HE VISITED
WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER LAST APRIL.

MR. VANCE SAID THE SESSION COULD BE HELD IN EITHER NEW
YORK OR WASHINGTON IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER AND COULD
CONTINUE "AS LONG AS IT IS USEFUL TO DO SO."

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO WOULD BE INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE AND THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED
OF THE PROGRESS IN DISCUSSIONS, HE ADDED. BUT THE PLO
WOULD NOT BE INVITED.

THE SOVIET UNION IS A CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFER-
ENCE ALONG WITH THE UNITED STATES.

MR. SADAT, MEANWHILE, MADE CLEAR THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS
TO EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMI MEETING WITH
ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN BUT THE EGYPTIAN
LEADER STRESSED THAT SUCH TALKS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO
DEVELOP INTO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

MR. VANCE IS DUE TO FLY ON TOMORROW TO LEBANON AND SYRIA. LATER HE WILL VISIT JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE WINDING UP HIS TRIP IN ISRAEL AUGUST 10.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID EARLIER THAT MR. VANCE MIGHT ALSO PAY A RETURN VISIT TO EGYPT FOR FURTHER TALKS AT THE END OF HIS MISSION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY PRESIDENT SADAT.

MR. CARTER STRESSED THE FIRST CONTACTS WITH THE EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN "EXTREMELY WARM, VERY FRUITFUL, VERY HELPFUL."

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PRESIDENT SADAT SAID AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SOME ISRAELI POSITIONS OUTLINED BY MR. VANCE WERE MORE POSITIVE THAN EXPECTED.

"TO BE FRANK, THERE ARE SOME POSITIVE ELEMENTS, BUT THERE ALSO ARE SOME NEGATIVE ELEMENTS," HE SAID. "WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMIZE THE DIFFERENCES.:

MR. VANCE SAID THE PROPOSED MEETING IN THE U.S. WOULD DEAL WITH ALL THE OUTSTANDING MIDDLE EAST ISSUES INCLUDING THE SHAPE OF A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES AND THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

BUT HE DOUBTED WHETHER IT WOULD SURMOUNT ALL THE OBSTACLES SO COMPLETELY THAT ONLY LOOSE ENDS WERE LEFT TO BE TIED UP AT GENEVA.

PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT TODAY URGING THAT THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD PARTICIPATE AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS.

THE PLO HAS BEEN MEETING IN BEIRUT TO STRESS ITS RIGHT TO BE TREATED ON "AN INDEPENDENT AND EQUAL BASIS" IN ANY ATTEMPT TO END THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.

END QUOTE.

SIMILAR STORIES ON AP/UPI TICKERS.

CHRISTOPHER

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